



# ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

## Arizona Division of Emergency Management

5636 East McDowell Road, Building M5101, Phoenix, Arizona 85008-3495  
(602) 244-0504 1-800-411-2336



Janice K. Brewer  
GOVERNOR

Maj. Gen. Michael T. McGuire  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

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Public Information Contact:  
Aprille Slutsky (602) 464-6258

### **Governor Proclaims June 8-13 Monsoon Awareness Week**

*Arizonans Encouraged to Prepare for Severe Weather Hazards*

PHOENIX - Governor Jan Brewer has proclaimed June 8 - 13 Monsoon Awareness Week in Arizona in anticipation of the 2014 monsoon season and summer severe weather hazards.

Arizona's monsoon spans the hot summer months of June to mid-September. Extreme heat alone can cause dehydration, heat exhaustion and heat stroke. People over 65 years old, children under 5, persons with a pre-existing medical condition, and individuals who work outdoors during the hottest hours of the day are at a higher risk for heat-related illness.

Most Arizonans, however, associate the monsoon with scattered showers and higher humidities. Thunderstorms can cause localized flash flooding, dust storms and—if there's lightning--wildfires.

"Arizonans enjoy the refreshing rains that accompany the monsoon," said Arizona Division of Emergency Management (ADEM) Director Wendy Smith-Reeve. "But we have to be prepared for the severe weather that may come along with it."

ADEM has partnered with the National Weather Service; the Arizona departments of Health Services, Insurance, Public Safety, Transportation and Water Resources; and The Salvation Army to advocate preparedness before the "rainy season." Arizonans are encouraged to take the following actions in preparation for the monsoon season:

**Plan:** Write communication and evacuation plans that identify a family meeting place, account for individuals' unique needs and family pets, and include an out-of-town contact. Practice your plan.

**Prepare:** Set aside enough non-perishable food and potable water to sustain your family (including pets) for 72 hours. Suggested kit items include first aid supplies, a radio, batteries and a flashlight. Pack a smaller "go kit" with copies of important documents, cash and a phone charger for evacuations.

**Inquire:** Know the threats to your community and how to react to them. Ask your child's school about their emergency plans. Bookmark [www.AzEIN.gov](http://www.AzEIN.gov) for emergency updates and preparedness information.

**Inspire:** Motivate others. Be a preparedness example by learning basic first aid, joining a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and/or talking to friends, family and coworkers about emergency preparedness. Better yet, take a friend or family member along to that first aid or CPR class.

*Visit the Arizona Emergency Information Network at [www.AzEIN.gov](http://www.AzEIN.gov) for official emergency updates, preparedness and hazard information, and multimedia resources.*